

Occurrence of *Calcarius ornatus* in Maine.—Early on the morning of August 13, 1886, while sitting in a blind on the Little River marshes, near Pine Point, Me., I noticed a small bird flying restlessly about overhead. From its peculiar flight and notes I took it to be a Titlark. Rather surprised to see one so early in the season, I watched it carefully, and, when it finally alighted not far away, I went after it. My attempt to secure it was unsuccessful, however, owing to my gun missing fire, and it flew off to the other side of the river, where I lost sight of it. Several hours later, while returning by the same place, I saw what was presumably the same bird, flying about from one place to another. Finally I fired at it, as it rose from the grass before me, and had the pleasure of seeing it fall. I must confess that on picking it up I was completely at a loss to know what it was. I did not feel sure regarding it till several months later, when looking over one day, in company with Mr. Chadbourne, the large series of *Calcarius ornatus* in the Agassiz Museum at Cambridge, we discovered one specimen which matched my bird in every particular. Mr. Brewster, to whom I showed it later, identified it as *ornatus* without doubt. The bird is of very small size, and, as far as plumage goes, lacks, with the exception of the tail-markings, every sign of belonging to this species. It is apparently a young male, though the sex could not positively be determined.—JOSEPH L. GOODALE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Object of the Shrike in Impaling its Prey.—I see that in Coues's 'Key to North American Birds' it is said to be still a puzzle to know what the Shrike intends by sticking insects and small animals on thorns. The explanation seems easy enough to me, and I give it for what it is worth. The Shrike, like many other birds and animals of prey, seems inclined to kill as long as there is opportunity, regardless of being able to use. The Shrike, not being fitted in claws or beak for tearing, as Hawks are. I think fixes its prey on thorns for the purpose of giving it a greater purchase in tearing it to pieces. I have been watching them often lately along the line of the railroad where they make use of the barbs on the wire fences for impaling the large grasshoppers they seem mostly to feed on. I often see them catch three or four in succession, but I think they rarely use more than one, and grasshoppers being so plentiful at this season I do not think that Shrikes ever come back to them, though they may do so in winter.—JAMES WHYTE, *Houston, Texas.*

Additional Occurrences of the Connecticut Warbler in Maine.—On seeing Mr. Merrill's note in the July number of 'The Auk' (Vol. III, p. 413) last summer, on the status of the Connecticut Warbler in Maine, I was reminded of a bird which I had taken in September, 1885, at Saco, which I had supposed to be of this species. At the time of reading the note I was away from Cambridge, and, being unwilling to send any communication regarding my bird until I had examined it again, was obliged to wait until October. Before that time, however, I had the pleasure of taking two more specimens at Saco. The first was taken September 8,

in a maple swamp, not more than twenty yards from where the specimen of the previous year was secured. The other was shot September 15, in a dry blueberry heath, on a pine tree, where it seemed to be feeding. To make certain in regard to their identity I have just shown the three skins to Mr. Brewster, who pronounces them undoubted *Oporornis agilis*. — JOSEPH L. GOODALE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The Brown Thrush laying in the Nest of the Wood Thrush. — As the present season has proved to be prolific in birds laying large sets of eggs, I was induced to look into a nest of a Wood Thrush, from which the female was with difficulty driven off, when, in addition to her own clutch of four eggs I was very much surprised to see two typical eggs of the Brown Thrush, which, I believe, is the first record of the kind. The nest was placed in a maple, about three feet from the ground, in a quite thick ravine very seldom frequented; so this occurrence cannot be placed to the pranks of some boy. Again, the Brown Thrush is not common in this vicinity, and its nest is quite a rarity, so that any boy of 'birds-eggs-collecting proclivities' would have been more apt to keep the eggs than to place them in another nest, which might not have been the case had the species been a Robin, Catbird, or some common bird. Near the spot where this nest was found a Brown Thrush was heard singing, but all efforts to find its nest were fruitless. The eggs of the Wood Thrush proved to have been incubated about seven days; those of the Brown Thrush not over two or three days. This unique set was taken June 5, 1886, and is now in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, New York. — H. B. BAILEY, *South Orange, N. J.*

Capture of Three Rare Birds near Hartford, Conn. — Ardea egretta. AMERICAN EGRET. — A bird (sex unknown) of this species was shot in this vicinity Aug. 14, 1883. Two or three more were reported seen near here in the same month, but I can vouch for the authenticity of only the one mentioned above.

Charadrius dominicus. AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER. — I have a young male of this species in my collection which was shot Oct. 24, 1885, as it was flushed from a stubble field in this locality. The bird was alone, and in skinning it I found that it was in good condition.

Phalaropus lobatus. NORTHERN PHALAROPE. — I shot a female about a mile below Hartford, Sept. 27, 1886. It appeared quite tame and was flushed from the water with considerable difficulty. The plumage was perfect but on dissection it proved to be in very lean condition. — WILLARD E. TREAT, *East Hartford, Conn.*

Piranga rubriceps and Tringa fuscicollis in California. — I have just received a specimen of *Piranga rubriceps* from Mr. W. G. Blunt, of San Francisco, which he shot at Dos Pueblos, Santa Barbara Co., Cal., and mounted at the time, which was about 1871, he thinks. The bird has not since been out of his possession. It was alone when shot.

Mr. Blunt assures me that there is positively no doubt of the fact.